

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of  
Uwe Werner Ehling et al.

Serial No.: 09/921,351

Filed: 08/02/01

For: Method and Device for Conditioning  
Comminuted Tobacco Material

: Examiner: D. Walls

: Group Art Unit: 1731

#8B 3111  
4-1-03

AMENDMENT B UNDER RULE 111

Director of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 28, 2002, reconsideration of the above referenced application is respectfully requested. Claims 6-27 and 30-31 remain in the application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) A device for conditioning comminuted tobacco material by heating and moistening with water vapor, comprising:

a) a chamber, having an upper inlet and a lower outlet, in which said comminuted tobacco material free-falls downwards;

b) a cellular wheel sluice at each of the upper inlet and the lower outlet of said chamber; and

c) nozzles for treating said free-falling, comminuted tobacco material with water vapor;

wherein:

GROUP 1700  
MAY 3 1 2003  
RECEIVED